TO:USPTO

Appl. No. 09/764,810 Amdt. Dated March 22, 2007 Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 12, 2007. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 10-16, 20-26, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and allowed claims 7-9, 17-19, and 27-29. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26, amended claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23, and 30. Applicants preserve the right to continue prosecuting the canceled claims in the future. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Therefore, Applicants believe that independent claims 7, 17, and 27 and their respective dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and (c) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 7-9, 17-19, and 27-29. Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, and 30 to depend on the indpendent claims 7, 17, and 27, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 09/764,810 Amdt. Dated March 22, 2007 Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2007

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 22, 2007

Rcg. No. 42,034

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor Los Angeles, California 90025

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

By

MAILING

FACSIMILE

A deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450,

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: March 22, 2007

🗷 transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.

March 22, 2007

Date